

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in response to a final Office Action mailed in the parent case on Dec. 12, 1996. Claims 5-25 are pending in this application.

In the Dec. 12, 1996, Office Action, the Examiner withdrew from consideration Claims 14-18 as drawn to a non-elected invention. These claims are again presented herein as claims directed at different aspects of the same invention. All of the claims presented herein are drawn to a high bandwidth, scalable server and method for storing, retrieving, and transporting multimedia data to a client in a networked system. All pending claims are appropriate for examination in this application.

In the Dec. 12, 1996, Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5-11 & 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Weinreb et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,426,747 (Weinreb). Weinreb describes an apparatus and method for providing for virtual memory mapping and transaction management in an object oriented database system. The Weinreb system includes a client/server structure wherein a client makes a request for data to the server using a virtual address. If the requested data is not available at the requested virtual address, a cache memory is checked for the requested data. If the requested data is not in cache memory, the requested data is transferred from permanent storage to cache memory and the requested virtual address is mapped to the physical address of the requested data in cache memory. Weinreb therefore basically describes a virtual addressing system in a client/server network. This system, while including a notion of virtual and physical addresses, bears little resemblance to the presently claimed invention.

As presently claimed, the present invention is a high bandwidth, scalable server and method for storing, retrieving, and transporting multimedia data to a client in a networked system. The present invention teaches a means and method for virtualizing a client request, not because of the need to manage the storage of data in permanent or cache memory as in Weinreb, but to allow a virtual connection to be constructed between the client and a service

residing on the server. Further, the client request is virtualized to enable the upstream client request for service to occur on a first network while the corresponding downstream response occurs on a second network. These disclosed and claimed features of the present invention are far outside the scope of the Weinreb virtual addressing system. As specifically claimed, Claim 5 includes an upstream manager on a first network and a downstream manager on a second network with a connection service to connect the client to an appropriate service on the server. This structure is not taught or suggested in Weinreb. Further in Claim 14, the present invention includes a multimedia data repository accessible by multiple concurrent clients for requesting multimedia data via a first network and for receiving the requested multimedia data via a second network. Again, Weinreb does not teach or suggest this apparatus or method.

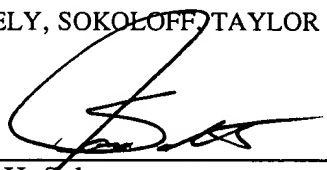
In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, that all objections and rejections have been overcome. All claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Jim H. Salter at (408) 720-8598. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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